

5 What is claimed is:

*Sub 17*

1. Apparatus for decoding a datastream of MPEG compatible packetized program information containing program map table information to provide decoded program data, comprising:

means for identifying channel map information conveyed within said packetized program information, said channel map information associating a broadcast channel with packet identifiers used to identify individual packetized datastreams that constitute a program transmitted in said broadcast channel; and

means for assembling said identified information to form a channel map for identifying said individual packetized datastreams constituting said program, wherein

said channel map information replicates information conveyed in said MPEG compatible program map ~~table information~~

2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said channel map information further associates an individual program with a corresponding program clock reference (PCR) value.

3. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said channel map information further associates an individual program with a corresponding language type indicator.

4. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said channel map information further associates an individual program with a corresponding physical transmission channel carrier frequency.

5. Apparatus according to claim 1, including means for tuning to receive said program transmitted on said broadcast channel using said channel map information for acquisition of said program.

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6. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said channel map information further associates said  
packet identifiers with first and second identification numbers  
used in conjunction to identify said broadcast channel.

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7. Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein  
said decoder acquires said program transmitted on  
said broadcast channel in response to User entry of said first and  
second identification numbers.

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8. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said information associating said broadcast channel  
with said packet identifiers is conveyed within a descriptor  
section of said channel map information.

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9. Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein  
said channel map information associates a plurality of  
broadcast channels with corresponding descriptor sections.

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10. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said channel map information further associates a  
datastream type indicator with an individual packetized  
datastream, said datastream type indicator identifying whether  
said individual packetized datastream contains at least one of a)  
audio information, and b) video information.

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5 11. Apparatus for decoding MPEG compatible packetized program information to provide decoded program data, comprising:

10 means for identifying channel map information conveyed within said packetized program information, said channel map information associating a broadcast channel with packet identifiers used to identify individual packetized datastreams that constitute a program transmitted in said broadcast channel; and

15 means for assembling said identified information to form a channel map for identifying said individual packetized datastreams constituting said program, wherein

said channel map information associates an individual program with a corresponding language type indicator.

20 12. Apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said channel map information associates an individual program with a corresponding program clock reference (PCR) value.

25 *Suba* 13. A storage medium containing MPEG compatible digital data representing video information comprising:


a video program;

MPEG compatible program map table information; and channel map information contained within said MPEG

30 compatible digital data, said channel map information associating packet identifiers with individual packetized datastreams that constitute said video program, wherein

35 said channel map information replicates information conveyed in said MPEG compatible program map table information.

40 14. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said channel map information further associates an individual program with a corresponding language type indicator.



5 15. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein  
said channel map information further associates an  
individual program with a corresponding program clock reference  
(PCR) value.

10 *Sub A3* 16. Apparatus for forming program guide information  
suitable for decoding MPEG compatible packetized program  
information containing program map table information to provide  
decoded program data, comprising:

15 means for forming channel map information including  
information associating a broadcast channel with packet  
identifiers used to identify individual packetized datastreams that  
constitute a program transmitted in said broadcast channel; and

20 means for incorporating said channel map information  
into packetized program guide information for output, wherein  
said channel map information replicates  
information conveyed in said MPEG compatible program map  
table information.

25 17. Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein  
said channel map information further associates an  
individual program with a corresponding program clock reference  
(PCR) value.

30 18. Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein  
said channel map information further associates an  
individual program with a corresponding language type indicator.

35 19. Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein  
said channel map information further associates said  
packet identifiers with first and second identification numbers  
used in conjunction to identify said broadcast channel.

40 20. Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein  
said information associating said broadcast channel  
with said packet identifiers is conveyed within a descriptor  
section of said channel map information.

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21. Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein  
said channel map information associates a plurality of  
broadcast channels with corresponding descriptor sections.

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22. Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein  
said channel map information further associates a  
datastream type indicator with an individual packetized  
datastream, said datastream type indicator identifying whether  
said individual packetized datastream contains at least one of a)  
15 audio information, and b) video information.

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23. A method for decoding MPEG compatible  
packetized program information containing program map table  
information to provide decoded program data, comprising the  
steps of:

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identifying channel map information conveyed within  
said packetized program information, said channel map  
information associating a broadcast channel with packet  
identifiers used to identify individual packetized datastreams that  
25 constitute a program transmitted on said broadcast channel; and

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assembling said identified information to form a  
channel map suitable for use in identifying said individual  
packetized datastreams constituting said program, wherein

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said channel map information replicates  
information conveyed in said MPEG compatible program map  
table information.

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5           24. A method for forming program guide information suitable for decoding MPEG compatible packetized program information containing program map table information to provide decoded program data, comprising the steps of:

10               forming channel map information including information associating a broadcast channel with packet identifiers used to identify individual packetized datastreams that constitute a program transmitted on said broadcast channel; and

              incorporating said channel map information into packetized program guide information for output, wherein

15               said channel map information replicates information conveyed in said MPEG compatible program map table information.

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